

## CCS HS HCS SCS SB 686 -- EDUCATION

### SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL PROCEDURES

In years in which the basic school funding formula moneys are 96% or less of the Fiscal Year 2002 level, the bill sets aside certificated salary compliance requirements if a district has an unrestricted fund balance of 17% or less of its last year's expenditures from those funds and also provides another method of waiver pertaining to any district that has a property owner who is delinquent with the taxes on property that by itself constitutes at least 10% of the district's assessed valuation under certain circumstances. The bill permits districts to transfer unrestricted balances in the capital projects fund to the incidental fund when the balances in the combined teachers and incidental funds fall below 10% of the expenditures from those funds. The bill deletes the requirement that for certain lease-purchases a levy be set to collect revenues equal to or greater than the amount of expenditure and makes a change in the calculation of the limit on the transfer of moneys from the incidental fund to the capital projects fund, requiring that capital instructional outlay be subtracted from the district's limit and that projects funded directly by the district be identified in the board resolution authorizing the transfer. Transfers from the incidental fund to capital projects funds are permitted for three districts for specific projects, and a method of transferring money between funds is established for certain districts that have issued qualified zone academy bonds without setting a levy in the debt service fund. Procedures are created to permit districts meeting certain requirements to refinance their lease-purchase obligations. This portion of the bill has an emergency clause.

### SCHOOL DISTRICT BIDS AND CONTRACTS

The threshold for the requirement to advertise for bids for certain construction-related school district projects is raised from \$12,500 to \$15,000, and the number of advertisements and methods of advertisement are clarified. The bill grants to school districts the ability to designate service agencies to deliver educational services and programs to one or more districts. School districts that participate in aggregate purchasing arrangements for gas cannot be required to be responsible for pipeline capacity charges for longer than other large industrial or commercial basic transportation customers, unless it is by mutual agreement; and the Public Service Commission must treat the gas corporation's pipeline capacity costs for schools in the same manner as other large industrial and commercial basic transportation customers.

## OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICT PROCEDURES

The restriction on the opening date for the school year is eliminated. Arbitration standards are created for school district boundary election disputes. The standards include the consideration of educational necessity and specifically disallow consideration of commercial benefits to landowners. School districts may hire a board member's spouse under certain conditions. The prohibition against school employees and persons related within the second degree to school employees in the City of St. Louis school district running for the school board is repealed.

## OTHER PROVISIONS

School districts and other political subdivisions that suffered weather-related damage in April and May of 2003 may hold an August primary to incur bonded indebtedness to replace and repair damaged buildings. This portion of the bill has an emergency clause. School districts currently are required to hold elections when the number of candidates equals the number of open seats, which the bill eliminates.

Public higher education institutions must provide information on vaccinations for meningococcal disease to students who live in on-campus housing.

The Board of Therapeutic Massage may prescribe licensure rules that include requirements for clock hours of instruction at vocational-technical schools.